

New Radnor Rural District Council

Report of the Medical Officer of Health and  
the Public Health Inspector for the year 1956

TO The Chairman and Members of the Council

Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report for 1956.

It requires little comment. The two most important matters concerning the Public Health of the area are Water Supplies and Housing and these are being dealt with as expeditiously, and as energetically as ministerial procedure will allow. I should like to comment on one other point - the rules concerning "sitting car cases". You will know that it is possible to provide motor transport for cases requiring medical attention at a distance and which, whilst being unable to use public transport, are still not sufficiently incapacitated to require an ambulance. In this area where it is frequently necessary to send patients long distances, to outpatients clinics and for admission to hospital, such a service has become more than a Godsend - it is a necessity. Unfortunately the amazing rule for its use has been made that it can not be granted to cases which are fit to travel by public transport, whether such transport exists or not. In other words, if a patient lives far from a 'bus route or if no 'bus service is available he has either to provide a taxi or go without treatment. This is an evil and ridiculous state of affairs and I am sorry to say that recently the County Authority has been pressing for its strict application. You will, Madam and Gentlemen, be all too well aware of the inadequate nature of public transport in our area and will, I am sure, appreciate my concern at its effect upon the proper treatment of our districts' sick. You may rest assured that I am taking every step to ensure that the matter will be dealt with as soon as possible. Apologising for this long dissertation in my report..

I am obliged to the Public Health Inspector for the parts of this report that he has compiled.

R. H. Jobson  
Medical Officer of Health.

1. Statistics of the area

Area (in acres) .....	51,892
Number of inhabited houses .....	704
Population .....	2,190
Rateable Value (as at 31.12.56) .....	£10,767
Sum represented by a penny rate .....	£42

2. Vital Statistics

	Total	Male	Female
(a) Live Births (legitimate)	31	18	13
" " (illegitimate)	-	-	-
TOTALS	31	18	13

(b) Still Births (legit and illegit)	<u>Total</u> 1	<u>Male</u> 1	<u>Female</u> -
(c) <u>Infant Mortality</u>			
(i) Deaths of infants under 1 year	1	1	-
(ii) " " " " 4 weeks	1	1	-
(iii) " from puerperal causes	-	-	-

(d) Causes of death - Statistics provided by the Registrar General.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	1	-
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	2	2	-
13. " " " uterus	1	-	1
14. Other" and lymphatic neoplasms	5	2	3
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	7	2	5
18. Coronary disease angina	4	2	2
20. Other heart disease	6	3	3
21. " Circulatory disease	1	1	-
22. Influenza	2	1	1
31. Congenital malformation <sup>s</sup>	1	1	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	-	1
35. Suicide	1	1	-
TOTALS	32	16	16

3. Infectious Disease

Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious and other Diseases

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified</u>	<u>Cases admitted to hospital</u>	<u>Deaths</u>
Scarlet Fever	3	-	-

4. Tuberculosis

The County Medical Officer deals with all aspects of this disease.

5. National Health Service Act, 1946

The County Council is the responsible authority for the execution of this Act.

(a) Laboratory Facilities

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory at Hereford and the Public Analyst's Laboratory at Carmarthen. Due to the difficulty of communications with Aberystwyth, the Public Health Laboratory here is seldom (if ever) used.

(b) Ambulance Services

The County Ambulance headquarters are at the County Hospital, Eardorindod Wells. This ambulance has to be used even when cases are being sent out of the County, principally to the County Hospital, Hereford.

(c) Dental Care of Mothers and Young Children

These facilities are provided by the County Council.

(d) Child Welfare

The Child Welfare Centre is at Walton, and is attended monthly by the District Medical Officer.

The following portion of the report has been compiled by the Public Health Inspector.

6. Water Supplies

- (a) Samples. These have been taken from both public and private sources, and submitted for analysis. Where adverse samples have been obtained, advice has been given as to the necessary alterations and improvements that should be carried out to these water supplies.

(b) New Radnor (Extended) Scheme

This scheme is for the abstraction of water from stream in Harley Valley to supply consumers in Radnor Valley (including villages of New Radnor, Walton, Old Radnor, etc.). The Welsh Office have informally agreed to the abstraction order and negotiations have been in progress for the purchase of land for the "Intake Site", "Reservoir" and "Filter House". The Council have been very concerned over the length of time these negotiations are taking and have done their best to expedite same.

(c) Llandegley and Penybont Scheme

This is a joint scheme with Rhayader R.D.C. for obtaining water from the Birmingham aqueduct. Consent has been given to this scheme and tenders invited for this work. It is hoped that work will be well advanced on this scheme during the following year.

(d) Franksbridge Scheme

The Consulting Engineers have drawn up an amended scheme for this area, entailing the abstraction of water from a well sited close to the River Edw and pumping same to a reservoir, from which point a gravity supply will be available for all consumers. This scheme had been forwarded for approval.

7. Drainage and Sewage Disposal

There are two small sewage disposal works in the district at New Radnor and Evenjobb, and they both deal with sewage from Council Housing Estates. In the rest of the district, where water-carriage drainage is possible, premises are drained into septic tanks with soakaways for the effluents.

The need for improvements to be carried out is however very necessary. The Council are negotiating for the purchase of land at Old Radnor for the purpose of installing a sewage works here when additional Council Houses are being built.



## 8. Refuse Collection and Disposal

The collection of refuse is carried out by a private contractor. His area of collection covers all of the classified roads in the district. A monthly collection is maintained and disposal is by means of controlled tipping on three separate sites.

## 9. Rodent Control

The Council's Rodent Operator is employed jointly with Kington U.D.C. A systematic survey of the district is carried out. All infestations discovered are treated. Dwelling houses receive a free service, but business premises (including farms) are charged. The A.E.C. also make contracts with farmers for the destruction of rats.

## 10. Housing

The erection of two more Council houses at Gladestry was completed, bringing the total number of Council houses in the district to 36.

The demand for new Council houses in this area would not appear to be as great as in other districts. This is mainly due to the high cost of building a small number of houses in a very sparsely populated rural district, with the resultant high rent of at least 30/-.

Sites for the erection of Council houses at Old Radnor and Llandegley have been purchased, and plans for same are being prepared. The proposed erection of houses at Old Radnor will be dependent on the New Radnor (extended) scheme for a water supply.

During the year the Council have given approval to 8 housing improvement grants totalling a sum of £1,785 10s 0d. In addition, improvements have been carried out to several agricultural dwelling houses with the aid of grants from the Ministry of Agriculture.

## 11. Inspection and supervision of Food

### (a) Food Premises

Total number of food premises in district - 16  
made up as follows :-  
Butchers shop - 1  
Bakehouse - 1  
Grocery Stores - 6  
Public Houses - 8

Total number of inspection carried out - 32

### (b) Sect. 14 Food & Drugs Act, 1938

Total number of premises registered - 4  
made up as follows :-  
Premises for the storage & sale of ice cream - 3  
(only prepacked ice cream is sold)  
Premises for the preparation and sale of  
Sausages etc. - 1

(c) Meat and Other Foods Inspection

There are no licensed slaughter houses in the district. All meat that is retailed in the butchers shop or from vans is slaughtered outside the district and is inspected before it leaves the slaughter house..

A various assortment of tinned and other prepacked food stuffs was inspected during the year. Where condemnations are made, the food is disposed of by burial after packages have been satisfactorily perforated.

(d) Milk Supply

All dairy premises in the district are occupied by producer/wholesalers and these come under the supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture.

12. Factories Acts 1937 and 1948

No. of mechanical Factories	-	5
" " inspections	-	10
" " Non-mechanical Factories	-	7
" " inspections	-	12

